

**REMARKS**

Thorough examination and careful review of the application by the Examiner is noted and appreciated.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1-20 stand rejected.

**Objection To The Drawings**

The drawings are objected to by the Examiner as not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Specifically, the Examiner objected to claims 4, 6, 13 and 18 for the features claimed as not being shown in the drawings.

Claims 4, 6, 13 and 18 have been cancelled without prejudice and withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner.

**Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §103**

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuribayashi et al, Hofmeister et al in view of Japanese Pat. '285 and Fin. It is contended that either Kuribayashi et al or Hofmeister et al discloses an adjustable loadport. While Kuribayashi et al or Hofmeister et al lacks the

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teaching of plural drive screws and distance sensors, Japanese Pat. '285 discloses plural drive screws, while Fin discloses the use of distance sensors.

The rejection of claims 1-3, 5, 7-12, 14-17 and 19-20 under 35 USC §103(a) based on Kuribayashi et al, Hofmeister et al, Japanese Pat. '285 and Fin is respectfully traversed.

While the Applicants do not dispute the Examiner's position that Kuribayashi et al and Hofmeister et al discloses adjustable loadports, and that, Japanese Pat. '285 discloses plural drive screws and Fin discloses the use of distance sensors, the Applicants respectfully submit that the Fin reference is not properly combinable with the three other references since Fin teaches a technology that has nothing to do with semiconductor processing. Fin '872 teaches a method and apparatus for positioning and determining speed for moving glass panels for a vehicle closure system utilizing a linear motor. One skilled in the art would not look to Fin (a completely different art area) to incorporate the use of distance sensors in a semiconductor loadport adjustment apparatus. The Applicants therefore respectfully submit

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that the combination of the Fin reference with the other three references is improper and cannot be supported under a §103(a) rejection.

More importantly, the Applicants respectfully submit that the Kuribayashi et al, Hofmeister et al, Japanese Pat. '285 and Fin, even when combined, do not teach the present invention as narrowly recited in independent claim 1:

"Claim 1. A loadport equipped with automatic height adjustment means comprising:

a movable platform adapted for ...;

at least two support members for supporting ...

and for moving said platform ...;

a distance sensor mounted ...; and

a **process controller** for **receiving** a first signal from said distance sensor, **comparing** to a pre-stored datum and then **sending** a second signal to said at least two support members to move said movable platform until **said first signal equals said pre-stored datum.**"

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The Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention teaches and claims a **closed-loop control system** including a process controller that functions as recited above. Such closed-loop control systems is not taught, disclosed or suggested by Kuribayashi et al, Hofmeister et al, Japanese Pat. '285, Fin, either singularly or in combination thereof.

The rejection of claims 1-3, 5, 7-12, 14-17 and 19-20 under 35 USC §103(a) based on Kuribayashi et al, Hofmeister et al, Japanese Pat. '285 and Fin is respectfully traversed. A reconsideration for allowance of these claims is respectfully requested of the Examiner.

Based on the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims, i.e. claims 1-3, 5, 7-12, 14-17 and 19-20, are now in condition for allowance. Such favorable action by the Examiner at an early date is respectfully solicited.

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In the event that the present invention is not in a condition for allowance for any other reasons, the Examiner is respectfully invited to call the Applicants' representative at his Bloomfield Hills, Michigan office at (248) 540-4040 such that necessary action may be taken to place the application in a condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Tung & Associates

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Randy W. Tung', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is somewhat stylized and loops around the line.

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